

# California GARDEN

AUTUMN NUMBER

Volume 37, No. 3

An Englishman asked several children,  
"What are the loveliest things you know,  
not counting people?" Here are some  
of the answers he got from girls:

*Scrunch of dry leaves*  
*Feel of clean clothes*  
*Cool wind on a hot day*  
*Climbing up a hill and looking down*  
*Hotwater bottle in bed*  
*Our dog's eyes*  
*Street lights on the river*  
*Smell of rain*  
*An organ playing*  
*Red roofs in trees*  
*Smoke rising*  
*Rain on your cheeks*  
*Smell of new mown hay*  
*Red velvet*  
*The moon in clouds*

\* \* \*

A boy listed a different group of  
aesthetic thrills:

*Feel of running*  
*Looking into deep water*  
*Taste of strawberries*  
*A swallow flying*  
*Water being cut at the bow of a boat*  
*An express train rushing*  
*A mounted policeman's horse*  
*A builder's crane lifting something heavy*  
*The feel of a dive.*

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# Reynard Way Camellia Gardens

We specialize in Camellias, which means that we carry only the varieties which we have tried and found will perform successfully in this area. Some Camellias may be superb in color, form, and habit of plant but if they are not at their best in San Diego County, we know it. Through time we have selected OUR choice for YOU.

Yes, some specimens will cost \$50, but we have smaller plants at \$2.

*You may be amazed that so many Cymbidium plants are being grown right here in San Diego. We have the largest collection o plants in this area. You can buy any size. They range from those which are ready and sure to bloom to those which are smaller, then you can have the fun of growing them for a year or two before they bloom. Even as little as \$5 will buy a sprouted back bulb though our choicest large plants are worth \$250*

We want you to drop in for information. Don't feel that you must buy. We are anxious to make San Diego a true Flower City. If I can interest you, you can interest your friends. Bring them in so that we may become acquainted.

2661 Reynard Way, Just off of State St.



# California Garden

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Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Theosophical Society, 4th at Olive.  
7:30 P. M.

## Cymbidiums

By H. G. Ploger,

At the July meeting of the Floral Association, Mrs. Mary Greer, president, in the chair, Mr. Leroy Wright, a Cymbidium enthusiast and authority, handled a paper on Cymbidiums written by Mr. Ploger. Because numerous requests for the paper have been received, we are here printing it.

In the beginning, as rank amateurs, we would like to say that statements which will be made in this paper are generally our own ideas—gathered from experience—and largely by the trial and error method.

Cymbidium Orchids are only one of the several hundred genera of Orchidaceae. They are natives of the Old World coming generally from the high elevations of India and Burma—and surrounding countries. If you are familiar with the climate of this area you will know that it is humid—yet rather cool except for the middle of the day. We speak of the higher elevations where Cymbidiums are found. This means that the ground is cool—the air warm and moist. Therefore it is natural to assume that these orchids want to have their roots cool—their foliage warm and the air around them moist.

Duplicating the conditions mentioned just now, anyone can grow Cymbidium Orchids. Pot culture is harder than ground culture, because of the extra work necessary to duplicate natural conditions; i.e., roots cool, foliage warm, and air around them moist.

Cymbidiums are rather new to our country. There have been a few collectors growing Cymbidiums in scattered parts of the United States for a number of years but it has only been

in the last eight or ten years that garden enthusiasts have really accepted them as a definite part of their garden scheme. Of course a great many people have started growing them with two ideas in mind. First for their gardens, second, for their commercial return—or vice versa. Outdoor growing of Cymbidiums is still limited to the Coastal Belt of Southern California.

### THE FIRST HYBRIDS

Years ago some of the English orchid collectors found these plants growing in their natural habitat. Some plants were shipped to England, where an attempt at hybridization was made. The first cross was made by a fellow by the name of Veitch. This was a cross between *Cymbidium eberneum* and *Cymbidium lowianum*. The cross was named *Veitchi*, or *eburneo-lowianum*. The resulting plants bloomed about 1894. From this first cross has sprung hundreds of hybrid Cymbidiums.

### THE PRICE OF CYMBIDIUMS

In discussing Cymbidiums our findings are that one of the first questions we are asked is "why are Cymbidiums so terribly high priced?" In the light of this we think that this should be answered before we get into a discussion of culture.

There are many reasons for the rather high prices of Cymbidiums but we will cover only a few of the most important ones.

First, there seems to be no actual evidence of insect pollination. (Some folks think that there has been—but if it has, it is rather a rare remote possibility.) Certainly Cymbidiums are not subject to insect pollination such as other common plants.

Therefore, except for the few species known, it is necessary to develop new varieties and colors by hand pollination. This is rather a complicated business and something for experts. Pollination is not too hard in itself (we do it all of the time) but the work following is complicated.

First, after successful pollination, one must wait for the seedpod to set. This usually takes a year or more. In due time, however, if everything goes right, the pod sets and fills with minute seed. The pod is then taken off and the seed is sown, under sterile conditions, in flasks and finally put into a Wardian case. The case is controlled for temperature and humidity. Several months later germination starts and a faint green color shows in the flasks. Later little plants begin to be distinguishable—thousands of them.

When small plants are large enough they are transferred to community pots and they are grown on in this manner for another year or so. This is a very critical period and the young plants need attention several times each day. Finally they become large enough to be put into individual pots, of about one and three-fourths inches, and spend at least another year in this home. From here on they are shifted as needed into larger pots until they

finally come into bloom.

But here is the joker. There seems to always be one. Out of the thousands of plants grown on for all of these years (7 to 14) there will likely be a dozen or so that will be better than their original parents. These of course are the only ones worth keeping. All of the rest will be discarded or will be sold at a price much less than the cost of growing them all of these years.

Now to realize on the several good crosses the grower must grow these plants on until they are large enough to divide and to take off back bulbs for further propagation. (Back bulbs always produce the same flowers as the plant itself.) Finally after ten to twelve years one has enough plants from this original cross to market a few. Maybe the price is too cheap rather than too high considering the effort, expense and years of work to develop an outstanding hybrid. That is the reason, when you see a beautiful Cymbidium in bloom, and you attempt to purchase a back bulb or a division of that particular plant, you find the price VERY HIGH. In our collection we happen to have two plants which came out of the same seedpod. You would not even guess that they were related. When plants become deeply involved with a family tree—the more ancestors there are to reckon with. This only brings out a caution in purchasing plants. Unless you are a good gambler and like to take a chance, you had better avoid a cheap offering of unflowered seedlings. Likewise avoid an offering of a plant unless you have seen it in bloom or you have confidence in the seller! With some growers we have no hesitancy in buying a plant which we have not seen bloom. Careful records are kept of blossom description and we find the plant blooming as described. With other growers we find we cannot depend upon their description. We buy from these fellows only during the blooming season.

#### ARE CYMBIDIUMS HARD TO GROW?

Cymbidiums are as easy to grow as any other plant that is grown in Southern California provided proper conditions are set up for them in the first place. We might add too that this proviso goes for any other kind of a plant which produces beautiful flowers. Remember that Cymbidium blossoms last on the plant two or three months so they are well worth the effort in

setting up proper conditions for them. You cannot dig a hole, dump in any kind of a plant and expect it to produce fine flowers.

First, you must prepare the soil. Cymbidiums are easy to grow because they need water about once each week in Summer and about once each two weeks in Winter. This varies according to conditions.

They must be sprayed about once each four months. We use Destruxol Orchid Spray.

We do not feed but some growers prefer to use a very, very weak solution of manure water in Summer when heavy growth is on.

What plant do you grow in your garden which requires less than has been shown here?

#### HOW ARE CYMBIDIUMS GROWN IN THE GARDEN?

Select a spot which is well protected from the wind, either under lath or under the shade of a tree which has high branches and not too dense foliage. In other words, give the Cymbidiums early morning and late afternoon sun. Avoid noonday sun. Next, dig a hole at least eighteen inches, or better two feet deep. Put inch gravel in the hole until it is half full. Now place about one inch of sand on top of the gravel. The hole should be 24 to 36 inches across, depending on the size plant to be planted.

The next job is to prepare compost. We use three parts decomposed granite, one part pea gravel and six parts coarse leafmold. Add to this about one seven-inch pot of well rotted cow manure to the bushel of mix. Next we like to lay a row of rocks around the hole. In case bed planting is done, a row of rocks, or bricks, around the bed to finally get the plant or plants above normal soil level.

There are a number of good compost mixes but this one we have found is easy to put together, the materials are easy to get, it is fool proof and does the job. Most everyone who has grown Cymbidiums has his own idea of composts. All are good if the mixture is light enough in texture to insure quick and perfect drainage.

In setting the plant, hold it with one hand in the center of the hole and with the other fill the hole with compost. Finally have the plant set so that only the base of the pseudobulbs is in the compost. Firm compost around the roots with fingers, being

careful not to injure tender roots. Cymbidium roots are very brittle.

#### HOW ARE CYMBIDIUMS GROWN IN POTS?

First, do not over pot. Never use a pot which allows more than one inch of free root space around the rim. Having selected the pot—chip out the bottom until the drainage hole is at least double the size originally. Next put in pieces of broken pot or crock that will cover the hole—concave side down. Now fill the pot to about one fourth its depth with gravel or some small pieces of broken pots. Put in a layer of coarse oak leaves (screened from leafmold). In order to keep soil sweet, we like to put in four or five pieces of charcoal about the size of a thimble.

Assuming that old compost has been gently hosed off of the plant and old rotted roots have been clipped off, the plant is ready for the pot. Again, hold the plant with one hand and fill the pot with compost with the other. See that the soil level is about one inch below the rim of the pot and that the base of the pseudobulb is barely in the compost. Gently tap pot on bench to settle soil as pot is filled. Continue this until you are sure that soil and plant are well settled. Use thumbs to firm soil around the rim of the pot but do not firm next to plant. Remember the roots are brittle!

Assuming that the compost was barely on the moist side when potting was done—set the plant in deep shade for a week to ten days with no water. At the end of that time wet thoroughly and place back in full shade. Repeat this operation for about a month, being sure that the compost has completely dried in the pot before further watering. Within a month to six weeks your plant is ready to take its place among the other established Cymbidiums.

#### HOW CAN CYMBIDIUMS BE OBTAINED?

There are a number of good reliable growers who, from time to time, have divisions of good flowering plants for sale. If you find these divisions too high in price and you do not mind waiting several years for blossom, buy started pseudobulbs.

If you are a beginner we suggest that you start with some of the first- and second-cross hybrids and work up to the more complicated crosses as

(Continued on page 7)

# Citrus Fruits for San Diego Gardens

By Dean Palmer

I should like to record the result of a conversation with Dean Palmer about citrus fruits because so many of our residents plant these fruits without thought that they will be quite different than hoped for. We must know the space they require, the proper variety which is definitely adapted to our special climate, and numerous factors which Mr. Palmer can discuss as a result of his many years of experience.—Editor.

**Oranges.** Choose the Washington Navel for the best Orange from Christmas on, and the Valencia as a Summer Orange. The Carter Navel has a thinner skin but is good only when planted near the coast.

**Lemons.** The Meyer Lemon is a 5-foot tree which is ideal for small lots. It ripens throughout the year and gives a few Lemons for table use at all seasons. The skin is thin so that this does not make a commercial variety to ship long distances. In choosing plants in the nursery, select one with a single stem if one intends it to be a tree eventually. But if one wishes to raise it as a shrub, a low, bushy plant is desired. Eureka is the standard variety which the commercial man plants.

**Limes.** It's a great pleasure to have a few Limes when they are needed for the kitchen, or preparing limeade. The Bearss Seedless is the best home-ground variety. It makes a good size tree for coastal conditions. The large fruits are plentiful and mainly ripen in Summer. It is harder than the Mexican Lime which also has very small fruit, is frightfully thorny, and worst of all, less suited to our conditions of soil and climate. The Rangpur Lime is not as good quality.

**Tangelo.** The home garden should possess a Tangelo which is a cross between a Grapefruit and a Tangerine. It may be eaten out of hand but it is full of juice and is an excellent juice fruit. It makes a good-size tree of upright growth. Sanjipon and San Jacinto are the two best known varieties. San Jacinto is quite like a Grapefruit in flavor.

**Limequat.** If you are a lover of Limes and have a little extra room, the Eustace Limequat makes a distinctive drink. It is a cross between a Lime and a Kumquat. It bears from January till June.

**Grapefruit.** It is a mistake to attempt to grow Grapefruit so close to the coast for the skin is thick and the flavor is bitter.

**Success in Culture.** Citrus fruits do not like the wind and they should be protected with a shade of lath or burlap, especially when first planted, else they may struggle along unsuccessfully for a number of years and be subject to insects and disease. This protection, of course, must be erected on the windward side.

Oranges will need 20 feet space. Meyer Lemons are well planted near a building where they serve as bushes or may be trained on trellises.

Because the trees are furnished by the nurseries with balls of soil they may be planted at any season if the nurseries have well-cared-for plants, otherwise they are freshly dug in Spring, and this may be ideal for planting.

Citrus fruits do need good drainage which should rule out many of our soils but these fruits are grown in spite of this if we are familiar with this fact and do what we can to correct the drainage.

For fertilizer, it is suggested that light applications be given often. Start with manure in the Fall, apply commercial fertilizer in Spring and apply some every month. They seem to thrive on sulphate of ammonia. Remember that such fertilizers acidify are best.

The need for water is best known to you but on well drained soil water may be given every 21 days.

When well grown, citrus fruits should bear every year.

Watch for rot, gummosis, at the surface of the soil. To prevent this, sprinkle a coating of dry bordeaux mixture. Young Oranges are subject to aphids so that they should be regularly sprayed with nicotine in the Spring. Be sure to use an oil spray in Fall if you have scale or red spider.

Ants are serious because they carry scale and aphids. Keep out ant cups, remembering that ants are very fastidious and will not eat stale poison or that which has become foul with the dead bodies of other ants.

## The Willow Pattern

Once there lived a mandarin who had a beautiful daughter named Koong-see, who loved her father's secretary, Chang—secretly but devotedly. The mandarin soon discovered the love affair, unprisoned his daughter in her apartments and built a wall about his palace. He moreover betrothed Koong-see immediately to a wealthy viceroy, Ta-jin, and arranged their wedding for the Peach blossom season.

The auspicious wedding day came and with it a box of jewels from Ta-jin to his future bride. All the house was in an uproar so that it was easy for Chang to bravely elude the guards and secure Koong-see as well as her jewels.

The lovers crossed the bridge in front of the house but the furious mandarin almost overtook them. However, they did elude him and were safely married, after which they escaped in a little boat down the Yangtse River. They found a pretty little island which they bought with Koong-see's jewels and built a house with their own hands in which they lived happily for many years.

However, the wicked Ta-jin found their retreat and set fire to the little house in which both Chang and his beloved Koong-see perished. Their spirits, however, were united, for they turned into turtle doves.

If you will look at your china with a willow pattern you will see the mandarin's palace, the escaping bride and groom followed by the mandarin carrying a whip, and on the island you will see their little house, above which flies a pair of doves.—A.C.H.

## Look Through the Files of the California Garden

---Thanks Awfully

Can you possibly spare some back numbers as our files are incomplete? Send the following back numbers to Mary Greer, Box 323, or to 2972 First Avenue, San Diego: All 4 issues of 1945, 1944, and 1943, also June 1939.



## The Love of Nature

By T. D. A. Cockerell

The love of Nature makes the whole world kin,  
To East and West the gospel preached herein  
Must stir the soul.  
All living things his comrades were,  
he saw  
The harmony which underlies all natural law  
Saw Nature whole.

These lines were written in Wallace's "Malay Archipelago," one of the great classics of travel and natural history. I knew Wallace well in his old age, and once asked him how he first came to be interested in natural history. He said that when he was a very little boy, he happened to hear two ladies in animated conversation about something one of them had found. Unobserved, he stood close by to hear about it. It was a rare plant, the *Monotropa*, or Indianpipe. He was surprised to find out that every plant, every little weed, had a name, and he got a book and interested himself in identifying all the plants he could find. From this he was led to the study of insects, and in fact became an all-round naturalist. He travelled widely in South America and later spent eight years in the Malay Archipelago, as described in his famous book. It was while in the Moluccas that he thought out the theory of natural selection, and sent it to Darwin, little imagining that the latter had the same idea.

I asked a number of prominent naturalists how they first became interested, and found that in practically every case the interest started early in life. While this may be said to result from an innate tendency, only to be observed in a certain number of people, its development depends upon opportunity and encouragement. We hear so much these days about the contributions of science to wealth and warfare, but it will be observed that the beginnings of scientific interest have nothing to do with these things; the beauty and interest of nature makes a direct appeal, as does music. The cultivation of this faculty of appreciation of natural beauty adds to the pleasures of life, and there are few places where it cannot find satis-

faction. In our region, in particular, the beautiful mountains and the desert are free to all to enjoy.

In our work at the Palm Springs Desert Museum, we have found many people who took pleasure in nature without any so-called economic motive. Those who destroy nature to gain wealth are little able to understand that they are in fact destroying the wealth of the country, which is free to all. In the study of nature, in modern times, photography has been a great aid. Instead of collecting specimens, many people now collect pictures, which they themselves have taken. We have just been looking at the colored slides of desert wildflowers made by Mr. Winters, who is trying to photograph every wildflower which grows in or near our deserts. He already has several hundred, and will get hundreds more. Such a pursuit leads one to photograph all sorts of interesting and out-of-the-way places.

All this suggests an obligation on the part of parents to encourage the love and appreciation of nature in their children. Most children have an interest in birds, flowers and other natural objects. Museums serve to direct these interests in definite channels, and to magnify them. I remember very well my early visits to the British Museum, where I saw all sorts of animals, including the smallest insects, so neatly mounted and labelled; in short, treated with respect. I realized how much work had been put into the accumulation and preparation of these collections, and was thrilled when my father said to me: "When you grow up, you may be fortunate enough to find something worthy of a place in this museum."

The economists recognize three kinds of value: the cost-value, the exchange value, and the use value. Many things which are very costly in time and labor, turn out to have little value of any other kind. When we say a man is "worth" so many millions, we mean that he could exchange the millions of dollars in his possession for other commodities, which he might perhaps not know how to use. But use value is often direct and without cost: the air we breathe, the beauty of nature, the fellowship of good

companions. But it does cost this, the cultivation of the faculty of appreciation, and this can be greatly stimulated in young people by their elders.—From the Palm Springs Limelight-News, March 28, 1946.

## Father Violet

[Legend of the Violet]

The Emperor walked in his garden of Fontainebleau pondering on the changes of his fate, for he was much perplexed over his successes and his sudden failures, but now there were signs of rallying his friends. But the return of his power was to be hard fought and he was to return into temporary exile. A little child modestly approached him, presenting him with a bunch of Violets. He was speechless. To himself he said, "This is the emblem of modesty. May I realize their message and imitate them."

Next morning he went out early to gather a fresh bunch. He looked up to hear a private of his old guard remark, "Sire, they will be more plentiful here next year."

"But, said the Emperor, "Do you think I shall be here next year?"

"Your Majesty will permit the storm to pass."

"Do your comrades think so?"

"Nearly all, Sire," was the answer. "Let them think, but not say so."

The soldier repeated this conversation to his fellows and it was agreed always to refer to him as "Father Violet."

You will perhaps have guessed that Father Violet was Napoleon Bonaparte. Throughout France men began to talk of the coming of the Violets in the spring, and of a certain Corporal Violet, who would be looked for in the spring, too. Ladies who longed for his return adorned their hats with Violets. For once, treason lurked beneath the Violet, for tiny pictures of Napoleon were concealed among the leaves and flowers of bouquets, and bunches of Violets were painted so as to resemble his profile.

Springing in obscurity, and retaining its perfume in death, it was a wonderful emblem of him who rose from the valleys of Corsica to the throne of the Golden Lilies, and whose name has been a spell of power long after he ceased to breathe.

—Oliver R. Willis, "Practical Flora."



# Keeping Up With Lizzie

By Alfred C. Hottes

The most unhappy people we know are those persons without hobbies who are trying too hard to be happy; persons who are always wondering what to do next Tuesday, next month, next week; persons who are trying to devise new pleasures and thrills. The people who are really happy are the ones who are so completely absorbed in something that they forget to search for pleasure.

There are some people who are interested in flowers, who like to smell them and pick them and arrange them, and sometimes this interest grows into a desire to grow them, to sow the seeds and make cuttings, and feed them to see if they can be coaxed to grow a little better than the neighbors'. But gradually this interest becomes fascinating to some people so that they become thoroughly absorbed in gardening to the exclusion of most else in the world.

I remember in my grammar classes we used to compare adjectives to show their degrees of intensity—positive, comparative, and superlative. The mild flower lover is the positive; the garden fan is the comparative, but eventually some persons get thoroughly cracked on the subject of Iris, or Camellias, or conservation, or rock gardens. The superlative degree in gardening is the garden nut. Some of you indulge in such refined language that you will not know the meaning of a "nut."

All nuts are not garden nuts inasmuch as a nut is any person intensely interested in something different than you are. The only pathetic people I know are those who are not a nut of some sort, for unless you are slightly cracked on some subject you will have as your ideal trying to keep up with Lizzie. It's a distressing pursuit—trying to chase Lizzie, for she is the fastest moving person in the world, and the faster you chase her the farther she gets ahead of you.

Of course, nuts are strange people, but they are about the only people in the world who are having a real good time.

You can hardly believe they are so ignorant of the latest shades of nail polish. They are persons who have forgotten whether they were disap-

pointed in the last election or not. It is exceptional for a president to be elected for more than one term and at most three terms, but if you once produce a double *Gladiolus* it might be permanent. That is how strangely they think.

They may indulge in half Latin, half English. They may even confront you with such a question as "My *Ornithogalum thyrsoides* has botrytis, does yours?"

They really believe that jewels are found more often at the seedstore rather than at the jeweller's.

They complain only of weather that's bad for their plants.

When you try to keep up with Lizzie there is no end to one's future desires. New shoes lead to new stockings, to new dresses, to new accessories, to new places to go, to new cars to ride in to go there, to new jealousies, to neurosis.

The most valuable things that have ever happened in our lives are the simple things that haven't cost a cent. When we search for thrills we seldom find them.

You often have a better time going to a place than after you get there. Sometimes even the planning of such an adventure is better than the experience. How often persons who have travelled around the world tell you so earnestly that they found a place in Venice where they served American ham and eggs. I think it was Thoreau who said that "a wise man sees more going to a nearby pool than a fool sees going around the world."

The wise man gets a greater thrill from watching an Evening-primrose opening at 7 o'clock in the evening than does a fool who watches the ball of a roulette wheel. You and I have journeyed across sun-baked prairies, across deserts and over tortuous roads to reach the Yosemite. We have travelled to Glacier Point and looked down and across at a magnificent waterfall. But is this a more beautiful sight than the opening of a Rose? Is it more satisfying than the fluttering of a butterfly which visits a flower in our own garden? Who shall say?

Some friends invited me to ride with them in their motorboat on

Cayuga Lake back home in New York State. Suddenly a storm came up. We were buffeted about for some time, and finally we steered for shore in a pouring rain. Fourteen of us waded through the mud to the cottage of a friend. It was just a tiny cottage which could easily accommodate four persons, but fourteen of us spent the night there. It was my lot to sleep on the porch on a mattress with two other friends, but I was against a flapping canvas which sprayed a gentle mist in my face all night long. Not having slept due to the wind and the rain and the crowded proximity of other human beings, I rose early. The sun was rising across the lake. All my friends were fast asleep. I rose ever so silently and approached the shore of the lake. A bird rose from its nest and flew out far over the water until it disappeared from my sight. Such a simple happening, and yet it's as memorable as the Jungfrau in Switzerland.

## Publications You Will Want

From Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, State College, Miss.

Lyle, C. Control of pests of shrubbery and flowers. Miss. Agr. Experiment Sta. Inform. Sheet 344, 2 p. 1945. 100 M69In.

Batson, F. S. How to root cuttings or ornamental shrubs under home conditions. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Inform. Sheet 329, 2 p. 1944. M69In.

Batson, F. S. *Gladiolus* for the home. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Inform. Sheet 330, 2 p. 1945. 100 M69In.

Lyle, C. Control of household pests. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Inform. Sheet 347, 2 p. 1945. 100 M69In.

Batson, F. S. Home production of dahlias. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Inform. Sheet 333, 2 p. 1945. 100 M69In.

Batson, F. S. Roses for the home garden. Miss. Agr. Expt. Sta. Inform. Sheet 324, 2 p. 1944. 100 M69In.

From Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville:

Smith, F. B., and Thornton, G. D. Production of artificial manure. Fla. Agr. Expt. Sta. B. 415, 20 p. 1945. 100 F66S.

Geraniums, Pelargoniums by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. Published by M. Barrows and Company, \$2.75. This book will help you grow and enjoy your plants.

## Rubaiyat---The New 1947

Rose Winner

By W. Ray Hastings

Chairman All-America Rose Sections

Rubaiyat is the unchallenged winner in All-America Selections of the American Rose Society for 1947. The name due to its profuse and repeated flowering suggests the line from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam: "Morning a thousand Roses brings—"

Why the winner of the All-America award? The exceptionally long, shapely buds open slowly to a large flower that deepens in color rather than fades. Fair fragrance perfumes the flower. Resistant to many of the minor ills, Rubaiyat grows about three feet in height and shows its vigor in the stout erect shoots with abundant foliage down to the ground. This winner has grown well in all weather where Roses are grown over America.

Beginning apparently as ovoid, the bud tapers out, as it matures, to nearly two inches. It slowly opens to a very large flower of 15 or more petals, with picotee edges. Cerise-red in the bud, the color deepens rather than pales as the flower opens; in half-open bloom the petals on their outer surface show several tones lighter than the crimson in the heart of the flower. The large and lightly petalled flower does not ball in the wet. Its persistence and profusion of bloom justify it for spring to fall use in beds and also in the greenhouse. As a cut flower and for the buttonhole, its rich color, upright neck and stem and delicate fragrance stand out. In bud form especially this rose has been used with exquisite effects in flower arrangements.

Bred by Samuel McGredy & Sons, Rubaiyat is the new leader from their long line of well loved, outstanding Hybrid Tea Roses. Their introductions down through the years, from Cheerful (1915) through McGredy's Ivory and Margaret McGredy to Cynthia Brook and Mrs. Sam McGredy, have been grown continuously. These breeders have centered their interests in a few types, and quality has resulted. This inheritance, with its own prize qualities, assures Rubaiyat of long popularity.

Peace. The ease with which Peace is grown almost everywhere has given satisfaction to amateurs and profes-

sional growers alike. The deep green waxy and holly-like foliage, as it leaves out with its luxuriant growth on the full length of the strong canes, constantly delights the grower and instantly attracts the visitor to the garden.

In this adaptability to Rose growing localities over the country and unrivalled attractiveness, Peace has fulfilled its promise for all gardeners since it has been available.

In the last two years, only Rubaiyat for 1947, and Peace for 1946, have received All-America awards. No other new Roses have approached them. For four of the eight years that proposed new roses have been put to the severe tests in the 18 All-America Rose test gardens over the country, only one Rose scored high enough to receive an award. In the other four years from two to six Roses received awards or sectional recommendation. All-America Selections are made before the new Roses are offered to the public for planting the only guide and authentic testing and recommendation of varieties before introduction.

All-America Rose Selections now number 19, and 16 of these winners are Hybrid Teas, two are Floribundas or large cluster-flowered Roses and one is a Climbing or Pillar Rose. The first Hybrid Tea, LaFrance, resulting from the crossing of a hardy Hybrid Perpetual with one of the tender but fragrant Tea Roses, was not recognized for almost 25 years. But in the 1890s, breeders began the development of the Hybrid Tea type. During the subsequent 50 years this newcomer has absorbed the interest of Rose breeders who have sought to enhance its vigor, fragrance, size, and hardiness, and to develop one or another color of flower, or characteristic of foliage and habit of growth. The extent of interest and of success shows in the All-America Selections. And, by enthusiasts, even the interest in Hybrid Polyanthas or Floribundas, whose descent derives from Hybrid Teas, might be attributed in part to the ancestor.

From Mirandy, Horace MacFarland and Floradora, awarded roses for 1945, back to the six winners of 1940, the All-America Rose Selections have held their place in the hearts and gardens of Rose lovers, for each has been outstanding in characteristics of good Roses and in important purposes for which they can be used.

## Carissa---The Natalplum

The Carissas are beautiful, glossy-leaved shrubs, thickly beset with spines and admired also for their fragrant white blossoms and brilliant scarlet fruits—both flowers and fruits appear together thruout the year.

The Natalplum, *Carissa grandiflora*, is a rounded shrub armed with spines at every second and fourth node, the spines being simple or twice-branched. The shrubs attain a height of 6 to 8 feet and are generally as wide as tall. The flowers are waxy white, deliciously fragrant, 2 inches across, salverform, with 5 petals, and produced in cymes. The leaves are ovate, opposite, and often 3 inches long. The fruits are red, 1 to 2 inches long, and filled with a rather granular pulp, slightly milky. There are several thin circular seeds.

Uses. Natalplums are happy all along the coast of California even in drouth and heat. They serve as excellent specimen shrubs. Their vicious spines repel all sorts of pests and pets. By pruning, excellent hedges are formed. The fruits are good in salads and when cooked taste like cranberries. Dalziel, in "Useful Plants of West Tropical Africa," writes, "In Africa the fruits or a piece of root is added to fish or meat to take away any strong odor. On the Gold Coast the name given it means 'fowl will be eaten up' and refers to its aid in making meat more palatable. The root is used as a tonic, supposed to restore virility. In French Guinea a poultice is made of the boiled leaves and considered of value for toothache."

The Egyptian Carissa, *Carissa edulis*, as commonly seen, has smaller leaves than *C. grandiflora* and they are inclined to be heart-shaped at the base with a sharp, abrupt tip. The fruits are purple about the size of a large Cherry. The flowers have a pinkish tinge and are produced in umbels at the tips of the branches. The spines are generally simple found at every other node or less frequent. On the stronger shoots the spines are forked. The young shoots are finely pubescent. This is an excellent wall shrub, for its growth is almost viny.

Culture. The Carissa seems impartial to soil but likes warm spots and sunshine. The plants will need pruning to keep them compact. It is generally considered that temperatures below 26 degrees are fatal.

## Cymbidiums

(Continued from page 2)

your experience and purse permit. First- and second-cross hybrids are not so expensive and usually bloom more freely—that is, more flowers per plant. Beware of bargains—you get what you pay for.

Our experience in growing Cymbidiums in Southern California is that at the season of the year for their bloom—November to June, there is nothing that can be planted which will give more pleasure and more blossoms for so little effort. Our program calls for Cymbidiums, Camellias, Tuberous Begonias and Cyclamen for a full year of blossom in our patio. This supplemented with Maidenhair Fern to hide the containers makes a most natural setting.

### WHY DO SOME CYMBIDIUMS REFUSE TO BLOOM?

Some species do not bloom in this climate.

Root system is not in good shape—  
not properly processed when planted  
or potted.

Heavy compost.  
Shade too dense.

Too much water at bud setting time.  
Overfeeding.  
Poor drainage.

### SUMMING IT UP

To sum up this paper and to outline a beginner's program which we believe will give success and a lot of pleasure to garden enthusiasts, we suggest the following:

Buy plants or bulbs from reliable growers. (Learn to know the look of a healthy plant. A plant with a lot of pseudobulbs and very few green bulbs and shoots is not healthy.)

Prepare soil properly if they are to be grown in the ground.

Pot correctly if they are to be grown in pots.

Be sure that the root structure is conducive to good growth. (If you do not know how to process a plant have some grower show you how to do it.)

See that plants get plenty of light. (Not noonday sun.)

Be sure of good drainage.

Practice good sanitation.

Water sparingly but when you water—soak!

Do not water during the month of August. We have found that it helps to set bloom spikes.

Do spray the foliage every day during August and at any other time if the air is dry and humidity is low. Be careful not to soak compost when spraying the foliage.

Do stay with first- and second-cross hybrids until you are familiar with their habits. (With about ten such hybrids you can have bloom from November to June.)

Be patient. Do not feed, wet too much or let the plants dry out. Don't dig and reset if your plants do not bloom at once. Give the plants a chance to become at home in their surroundings.

As stated before—these thoughts are from our own experience. Others will have different ways of growing Cymbidiums and we are sure that they are successful or they would not be doing it. We are not asking you to follow our program—but whatever program you start—stick to it until you are sure that it does well for you or that it does not.

## The Doury

[A Legend of the Jasmine]

It is said that the Jasmine was introduced into Tuscany in 1699 by the Grand Duke. Sole possessor of this flower, he was jealous of letting others have it.

On his vast estate was a gardener—  
young, and in love. How could he resist bearing such a fragrant flower to his betrothed on her birthday? She immediately made a cutting of it—and then others, until by selling them she had a substantial dowry to bring to her lover.

In commemoration of this story it was common for Tuscan maids to wear a sprig of Jasmine on their wedding day. A proverb is current: She who is worthy to wear a nosegay of Jasmine is as good as a fortune to her husband.—A. C. H.

## The California Garden Travels To Distant Lands

"You will, no doubt, be surprised to know how far the 'California Garden' goes afield," remarked Miss Alice Greer. "We have subscribers in Colombia, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Chile, and Argentina. And in the other direction, there are: 5 readers in Palestine, Egypt, 3 subscribers in Syria, India, northern Rhodesia, and Hawaii."

## Iris and Geranium Show

On the 27th and 28th of May the San Diego Floral Association again sponsored an Iris and Geranium show, the setting for which was the beautiful wall-enclosed garden of Mrs. Julius Wangenheim. This garden is always lovely but was particularly so this year. The pansy-bordered pool with its varicolored waterlilies was at its best. Mrs. Wangenheim's brilliant Pelargoniums, in their artistic containers, lent a distinctive touch and harmonized with the many specimens on exhibit and the tidy well-kept lawns.

The analemmatic sundial which Mr. Wangenheim invented, and which keeps civil time instead of solar time as ordinary dials do, adds an intellectual note to the garden and is always a center of attraction for visitors.

Mrs. Wangenheim's generous hospitality in making her garden available for the occasion as well as the fact that the garden itself constituted the most outstanding exhibit of the show was deeply appreciated by the members of the association, who registered their gratitude by the presentation of a silver medal.

One is always astonished at the number of different kinds of Iris which are always in evidence at this show. Their multifarious tints, sometimes almost iridescent, combined with the tracery of their venation, give these flowers an appearance of delicacy and perfection of form and color for which no written description can be completely satisfying.

The visitors at the show were most enthusiastic in their admiration of the exhibits of Geraniums. The flowers varied in color from pure white and dainty pink to all shades of vermilion and scarlet. The clusters ranged from a few large flowers to a multitude of closely grouped small ones.

The collection of Pelargoniums was the finest that this reporter has ever seen, and the exhibits included the whole gamut of color from delicate rose to orchid purple. The San Diego Floral Association wishes to take this opportunity to thank W. Allen Perry, John Bishop, and Dean F. Palmer for so kindly serving as judges of the entries. Thanks are also due to the committee chairmen, to the hostesses, and to the exhibitors for their part in making this year's Iris and Geranium show an aesthetic and practical success.

—Ruth Ingersoll Bailly.



## A Trip To Mexico

A meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held April 16th, 1946.

This meeting was called to order by Mrs. Mary A. Greer, President, who then introduced the speakers of the evening, Lieutenant Commander and Mrs. Harlie H. Brown, who showed kodachrome films taken on their recent trip to Mexico.

This trip covered the greater part of southern Mexico, from Jalapa on the east to Guadalajara on the west, and Taxco on the south. Naturally the pictures selected for this showing emphasized the flower gardens for which this part of the continent is famous, especially those of Cuernavaca established by Jean Borda more than two centuries ago, the floating gardens of Xochimilco which long ago anchored themselves so that they became islands in the lake, and those at Fortin noted for their Gardenia production.

But in addition to these pictures of purely floral significance the speaker showed others of diversified scenic value. Among these were pictures of the church at Taxco, the architecture of which suggested that of our California State Building in Balboa Park, the islands in Lake Patzcuaro, the picturesque resort on the shore of Lake Chapala, the pottery factories of Tlaquepaque, the Zocalos of Mexico and Guadalajara, and the market place at Toluca.

Conditions in the contemporary world have curtailed the opportunities for foreign travel and have diverted tourist traffic from Europe to Latin America. Within the past few years commercial lecturers have begun to discover Mexico, but they tend to emphasize in their talks the pyramids and other archaeological features of this region, and also the snow covered peaks which surround the valley of Mexico. By emphasizing instead the cultivated flora of the area, Lieutenant Commander Brown not only made his talk more appropriate for the occasion, but also exploited an aspect of contemporary Mexican life and culture that tends to be overlooked by the professional lecturers.

By way of a pleasing variety the speaker closed his talk with a series of views from his home on Point Loma, showing the flowering plants in his own garden with San Diego Bay and the mountains for a background.

—Joshua L. Bailey, Jr.

## Brunfelsia---Yesterday-and-Today

Brun-felz-i-ah. Named for Otto Brunfels, German physician and herbalist, died 1534. Family Solanaceae, related to Potatoes and Tobacco.

*Brunfelsia calycina* variety *floribunda*, White-eye Brazilian Raintree, (Yesterday-and-today). This erect or spreading Brazilian small tree or large shrub is seldom over 6 feet tall. The flowers are lavender-purple with a white eye on first opening but as they age they turn to a nearly white, hence, the name Yesterday-and-today for the color fades from day to day. The flowers are fragrant, 2 inches across and are produced in few flowered mostly terminal clusters (cymes). The leaves are evergreen, simple, ovate-oblong to 4 inches long, lighter beneath. Usually it is the variety *floribunda* that is sold. But another species *macrantha* (*lindeniana*) has leaves 8 inches long, rich purple with a lavender-blue ring around the white eye. It comes from Peru.

*Brunfelsia americana*, the Franciscan Raintree, (Lady-of-the-night). This is an evergreen growing 8 feet tall with night-fragrant yellowish-white flowers with long, 4-inch tubes. The leaves are oval to obovate, to 4 inches long, greenish yellow, suffused brown. One shrub will perfume a whole garden at night, says Nehrling. The fruit is a yellow berry  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches across. It is from the West Indies.

**Culture.** Evans says they want a neutral or slightly acid soil. Bailey recommends a rich, loose compost. Hoyt says: "Will not survive a combination of drouth and hot sun. Withhold moisture and fertilizer in late fall to stop growth." Evans recommends half-shade. It tolerates a temperature of 20 degrees and is thought to bloom better near the sea.

**Uses.** It would seem best to grow this in a lathhouse, in which case it might be rested in the winter. "Sunset" remarks it is especially successfully planted on the outside fringe of a group of high-branching trees that afford light afternoon shade and some protection from cold winds and frost. George Martini of the Los Angeles Park Dept. says: "Treat them rough, they don't succeed with coddling."

**References.** Hugh Evans. L. H. Bailey. Roland H. Hoyt. W. B. Clarke. "Sunset." Martini.

## Potassium Permanganate

It is well known that potassium permanganate is used to control algae in pools. It is also used to control the gray film disease that attacks goldfish. Tablets, which may perhaps contain some additional ingredients are sold by fish specialists for this purpose, two or three tablets about the size of aspirin tablets being sufficient for a pool seven feet long, four feet wide, and two feet deep.

Incidentally, permanganate, one-half ounce to three gallons of water, applied to a lawn infested with moss, will kill the latter rapidly and at the same time, bring up worms in a hurry without doing harm to the grass. It helps the grass, in fact, because it oxygenates the soil and, by decomposing organic matter, releases nitrogen. I usually dose my lawn once each Spring.

I occasionally water all pot plants, including seedlings, with water containing permanganate, using one-quarter teaspoonful of the chemical to a gallon of water, in the belief that it benefits the plants by sweetening the soil.

Permanganate is used by Carnation growers when propagating, the cuttings being thrown into a bath of the solution. It is a mild fungicide and in combination with hormones, encourages rooting.

It is, of course, well known that permanganate is used as an antiseptic for wounds, and 40 years or so ago we were using it for watering Sweet Peas as aid against root rot.

Finally, one of my first jobs as a boy over 50 years ago was the staining of floors with the strong solution, a coat of varnish afterwards giving the effect of dark oak.

—T. A. Weston.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In addition to the uses mentioned by Mr. Weston, potassium permanganate (10 percent solution) will prevent ivy poisoning if painted on the exposed skin areas within 10 or 15 minutes after contact with the plant. The brownish purple stain can, however, be objectionable to those who are willing to suffer pain for the sake of vanity.

—Horticulture.

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